While the Government of Bangladesh denies the reports of assistance and support being given by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence to the United Liberation Front of Assam from Bangladesh territory. The Government continues to pursue the matter with the Government of Bangladesh.

India's Place in Commonwealth

5620. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to some suggestions made by the President of the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada at New Delhi that India is best placed in Commonwealth to lead all developing nations against manipulation of the developed countries ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof :

(c) whether Government propose to take some initiatives in this regard especially in the context of threats to Indian sovereignty and integrity being created by Pakistan by supporting terrorism across the borders: and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not what are the reactions therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of remarks to this effect made by professor James A. Maraj, President of the Commonwealth of Learning contained in his Convocation Address to the Indira Gandhi National Open University on 16th April, 1994. India has consistently played a leading role in the Commonwealth in articulating the view point of developing countries concerning challenges in a changing world and in fostering socio-economic developmental programmes under the Commonwealth banner that are vital to the intersts of developing countries which comprise the vast majority of Commonwealth States.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) By established convention, issues of a bilateral nature are not raised at Commonwealth meetings. At the same time, at India's behest, the Commoniques issued by the Harare aswellas the Cyprus Commonwealth Summits have reaffirmed strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and reiterated the determination of Commonwealth Heads of Government to combat terrorism, whether perpetrated by individuals, groups or states.

Pakistan's Nuclear Programme

5621. DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA :
SYED SIBTEY RAZI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to certain reports which appeared in some columns of Press indicating that Pakistan would not roll back its nuclear programme;

(b) if so, what is Government reaction thereto :

(c) whether Government propose to keep this aspect in view for discussion while sending either any delegation to foreign countries in future on any account or take up this issue for discussions with foreign dignitaries when they visit our country in future; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen reported statement-